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SUBJECT: BLUE LANTERN POINT OF CONTACT IN NEW ZEALAND

REF: STATE 205022

1. Embassy Wellington's designated point of contact for the Blue Lantern Program is:

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Economic Officer
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Departure date: August 2006

2. Blue Lantern cases are coordinated with the Embassy's Defense Attache Office.

3. The time frame for past Blue Lantern cases has ranged from weeks to months, with delays usually associated with bureaucratic inertia and not with policy differences.

4. We are not aware of any local conditions that impede or affect working Blue Lantern cases. Most of these cases involve government-to-government transfers, with our main interlocutor being the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Burnett